73-5880-0004

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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	es—complete applic		ister Forms		
1. Nar	ne				
historic Wic	hita City (Carne	gie) Library	Building		
and or commor	Wichita Omnisp	here and Scie	nce Center		
2. Loc	ation				
street & numbe	er 220 S. Main				not for publication
city, town Wi	chita		vicinity of		
state Kan	sas	code 20	county	Sedgwick	code 173
3. Clas	ssification	1			
Category districtX building(s structure site object	Ownership X public) private both Public Acquisition N/A in process N/A being conside	Accessil X yes:	cupied in progress	Present Use agriculture commercialX educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private reside religious scientific transportation
4. Ow	ner of Pro	perty			
name Cit	y of Wichita				
street & numbe					
city, town	Wichita		vicinity of	state	Kansas 67202
	ation of L				
		Sedgwick Coun			
	gistry of deeds, etc.				
street & numbe		ty Courthouse	Manager and the second		
city, town	Wichita			state	Kansas 67202
6. Rep	resentati	on in Exi	sting :	Surveys	
title Kansas	State Historica	1 Society	has this pro	perty been determined e	ligible? yes
date 197	0			federalX_sta	ite county
denositary for	survey records Kans	as State Hist	orical Soc	iety, 120 W. 10th	
	Topeka				Kansas 66612
city, town	TOPERA			state	Namada 00017

7. Description

Condition X excellent	deteriorated	Check one unaltered	Check one X original site
good	ruins	X_ altered	moved date
fair	unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Wichita City (Carnegie) Library Building (c. 1915) is located at 220 S. Main Street in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas (pop. 279,835). The two-story, limestone Beaux Arts building stands in the southwestern part of Wichita's central business district, directly south of the old City Hall. Its facade orientation is west. The building measures approximately one hundred and twenty-eight feet from north to south and eighty-three feet from east to west. After the completion of Wichita's present library in 1966, the Wichita City (Carnegie) Library Building served as city offices and the municipal court until the present occupant, the Wichita Omnisphere and Science Center established its tenancy in 1976.

The two-story, ashlar cut, limestone block building sits on an ashlar cut, limestone block, raised foundation with a multiply moulded watertable. Three bays comprise the rectangular building's facade and rear. The building's main body is one bay deep, a one-bay-by-one-bay brick unit extends from the rear elevation's center bay. A parapetted entry pavilion projects from the facade's center bay. A short, square tower rises from the building's central bay, covered by a rounded, truncated hipped roof sheathed with pantiles and surmounted by a monitor roof. Tripartite windows with translucent glass pierce each wall of the central tower. Standing seam metal covers the gable roofs of the two main wings, the metal may have been tarred. Two skylights, which have been covered due to water leakage, pierce the gable roofs midway. The entry pavilion and the rear extension have low roofs hidden by parapets, they are likely covered with tar and gravel. The building retains its original metal drain pipes on the outer edges of the facade and the rear extension.

A limestone or terracotta entablature, comprised of a multiply moulded bottom course surmounted by an egg and dart architrave, a bracketed frieze, and an incised vegetal and shell motif cornice engages the building on all elevations except the rear. A limestone parapet surmounts the entablature on all elevations except the rear. Large limestone blocks underscore the entablature. This frieze is underscored by a limestone moulding which breaks to allow the second level window penetration. A limestone beltcourse engages the building below the second story windows on all elevations except the rear.

The projecting entryway pavilion contains a recessed, transomed double door surmounted by a fanlight. The metal and glass door and transom replace an original set of taller, wood framed and glass paned double doors surmounted by a narrower, artglass transom. The doors appear to have had metal grilles attached inside of them. A multiply moulded limestone architrave with a modillioned frieze delineates the doorway. Two oversized brackets with acanthus carvings support the architrave's limestone, multiply moulded, modillioned entablature. Two pairs of limestone Ionic columns stand against the entryway walls, supporting the multiply moulded limestone beltcourse which engages the building below the second story. The beltcourse is engaged within the doorway recession as well as resting on the door's entablature. A multi-paned, translucent glass fanlight surmounts the beltcourse above the doorway. A wooden frame contains the window. A two course terracotta or limestone arch surrounds the window. The arch concludes in the pavilion's vaulted and coffered ceiling. Terracotta or limestone pieces with a repeating floral motif line the vault. A terracotta or limestone single course arch with floral

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motifs surround the upper level of the doorway. A lion headed keystone sets at the arch's apex.

A parapet wall surmounts the pavilion's classical entablature. The parapet is comprised of a central wall bearing the inscription "City Library", flanked by balusters and end blocks. Sloping, closed walls form the parapet on the pavilion's side elevations. A single, narrow, 1/1 double hung window pierces the wall space of the pavilion's side elevations on the first level. The original cast iron sconces with triple, milk glass bowls hand on either side of the doorway. Stone steps with flared limestone abutments lead up to the doorway.

Two identical bays flank the central pavilion. On the first level, each bay is comprised of three pairs of casement windows surmounted by a multi-paned, translucent glass transom. The frames are wooden and appear to be original. Each window capped with floral and vegetal limestone or terracotta architrave and underscored by projecting limestone sill supported by brackets with acanthus leaf carving. Three pairs of casement windows stand above each first level window. The second level windows are surrounded with a floral and vegetal limestone or terracotta architrave and rest on the projecting beltcourse. Small windows with grilles pierce the foundation below these windows, three on each side.

The side elevations' first level fenestration is comprised of three pairs of casement windows identical to those on the facade, surmounted by a tripartite fanlight with a terracotta or limestone floral and vegetal surround with a lion head keystone, like that around the door. The first level, center window on the south elevation has been cinder blocked in.

A triple course of brick corbelling ornaments the frieze above the upper level windows on the rear elevation. The rear elevation is fenestrated with 1/1 double hung windows of varying sizes. Many of these windows have been cinder blocked in. Some of the first level windows retain their original multi-paned, translucent glass transoms. Brick lintels surmount the windows, limestone sills underscore them.

The interior of the building maintains its original atrium floorplan and ceramic tiled floors. The beamed and coffered first level ceiling, the Doric pilasters below the ceiling beams, the first level marble columns, the egg and dart moulding ceiling cornice on the first level, the wooden door and window surrounds, the double cast iron staircase in the vestibule, and the three story, classically detailed atrium surround are retained. The atrium surround is comprised of two levels of wooden balustered railings, wooden Ionic columns on the second level, wooden Corinthian columns on the third level, the tripartite windows previously described on the third level, and plaster cast, coffered panelled ceilings. A bronze memorial plaque fills the interior window space of the center bay of the first floor's southern wall. Originally the building contained twelve sunflower motif, stained glass windows designed by Elizabeth Stubblefield Navas, these have been removed. The circa 1915 murals by Arthur Covey are not visible. The interior of the library maintains a very high degree of integrity.

8. Significance

1700-1799	X architecture art	community plann conservation economics X education engineering exploration/settle	ing landscape architectur law literature military music	science sculpture X social/ humanitarian theater
Specific dates	c. 1915	Builder/Architect A	Anthony Allaire Crowell	- Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Wichita City (Carnegie) Library Building (c. 1915) is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Carnegie Libraries of Kansas thematic resources nomination (c. 1902-1921) at the local level of significance under criteria A and C for its historical association with the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program and for its architectural significance as a new building type. A library association was organized in Wichita in 1873. The community received their \$75,000.00 Carnegie Library grant in 1912, library construction was completed in 1915. The Wichita City (Carnegie) Library Building is an example of the Beaux Arts style.

Sixty-three Carnegie funded libraries were built in Kansas during the first three decades of the Twentieth Century; four of these libraries were built on college campuses. In most cases, the Carnegie funded library represented the community's first library building although many Kansas communities had book clubs and library organizations well before the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program was founded. In the case of the four college libraries, the building represented the first structure which was solely devoted to housing the institution's books and providing study space. Carnegie did not solicit interest in the program, with the exception of the Anderson (Carnegie) Memorial Library which was built by Carnegie as a memorial to his friend John Anderson and was the first college library nationally to receive Carnegie funding. Communities initiated contact with the corporation by letter, indicating their desire for a Carnegie funded library. If the Corporation responded favorably to the request, a firm local commitment to the program's requirements, which generally resulted in a public election in support of the library, followed. Obviously these actions represented a perceived need within the community for a library building and the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program represented an excellent way to secure the funds to build one. Many of the Carnegie Libraries built in Kansas reflect the high space utilization design guidelines promoted by the Carnegie Corporation after 1910, underscoring the point that before the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program, few architects and/or builders had experience designing this building type.

Twenty-eight Carnegie Libraries are included in this nomination (see inventory). Twelve Carnegie Libraries have been listed individually on the National Register: Argentine, Case Library (Baker University, Baldwin City), Caldwell, Dodge City, Emporia, Goodland, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Newton, Ottawa, Parsons, and Pittsburg. The Carnegie Library at Arkansas City is included in a downtown historic district. Thirteen Carnegie Libraries have been demolished: Great Bend, Halstead, Hays, Iola, Kansas City, McPherson, Morrison Library (Fairmont College, Wichita), Olathe, Osawatomie, Plainville, Russell, Salina, and Washington. Five Carnegie Libraries have been altered enough to make them ineligible for the National Register: Abilene, Garden City, Hiawatha, Lyons, and Stockton. (The nominations for the Concordia, Eureka, Independence, and Winfield libraries were deferred.) Twenty-two of the nominated libraries retain their original function. All of the buildings are in use or have an active use planned for them. The

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nominated libraries maintain a high to moderate degree of architectural and structural integrity.

Industrialist Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) and the Carnegie Corporation significantly influenced the development and expansion of public library systems worldwide. Between 1886 and 1921 Carnegie funds assisted in the construction of 1,681 city and 108 college libraries in the United States. As a region, the Mid-West, Kansas included, did not have a well established public library system until the Carnegie Program and ranks highest in the number of communities which obtained Carnegie Libraries nationwide. Out of the forty-six states to participate in the library building program, Kansas ranks approximately eleventh in the number of Carnegie Libraries built. For many Kansas communities, the Carnegie Library represented its first library building, providing an environment that all members of the community could share for the purposes of reading, learning, and education.

Eligibility for Carnegie Library funds rested on several factors. Firstly, the population of the community had to exceed 1,000; in Kansas this indicated at least a second class city status. This population requirement generally resulted in county seat communities applying for and receiving Carnegie Libraries. Some communities with populations less than 1,000 banded together with neighboring communities to achieve the 1,000 mark and applied for township libraries, as in the case of the Peabody and Canton Township libraries. In the case of college libraries this constraint may not have applied, although the four Kansas colleges to receive Carnegie libraries were located in cities which had populations in excess of 1,000 by 1900. Secondly, the applicant had to provide a site for the library. The sites tended to be one or two blocks outside of the community's main business district. Thirdly, the applicant had to provide an annual endowment for the maintenance and improvement of the library which amounted to at least ten percent of the initial grant from the Carnegie Corporation.

This last factor contributed to the ending of the Carnegie Library Building Program in 1917, although grants for books and other improvements continued for several more decades. An inherent problem for second class cities in Kansas was the .4 mill levy restriction for libraries, making it difficult for some communities to meet the annual ten percent maintenance appropriation solely through public dollars. In 1917 the Kansas State legislature increased the library levy to .5 mill for second and third class cities, an amendment which affected most of the communities in the State that had Carnegie Libraries. In 1916, large communities such as Topeka, Wichita, Hutchinson, and Leavenworth had library mill levies of 1.06, 1.2, 1.8, and 3.5 respectively. In Kansas, the average public library grant was \$12,000 and the average college library grant was \$37,000. These monies covered the cost of the building, the necessary furniture and fixtures, and the architects' fees.

Prior to 1910, the Carnegie Corporation did not provide design guidelines for the libraries that it funded and because the library was a relatively new building type, few architects and/or builders had experience with its design. Many of the early libraries were expensive examples of the Beaux Arts style with little focus on floor plan and space

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efficiency. In 1910, Carnegie's personal secretary James Bertram developed model specifications and floorplans for proposed libraries, entitling his work <u>Notes on Library Buildings</u>. The <u>Notes on Library Buildings</u> provided the first widely circulated guidelines for library design in this country.

Bertram wrote:

Small libraries should be pland (sic) so that one librarian can oversee the entire library from a central position.... The bilding (sic) should be devoted exclusively to: (main floor) housing of books and their issue for home use; comfortable accomodations for reading them by adults and children; (basement) lecture room; necessary accommodation for heating plant; also all conveniences for the library patrons and staff. Experience seems to sho (sic) that the best results for a small general library are obtained by adopting the one-story and basement rectangular type of bilding (sic), with a small vestibule entering into one large room sub-divided as required by means of bookcases.... The rear and side windows may be kept about six feet from the floor, to giv (sic) continuous wall space for shelving. A rear wing can be added for stack-room (when future need demands it) at a minimum expense, and without seriously interfering with the library servis (sic) during its construction. The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides, and be large enuf (sic) to allow extension, if ever such should become necessary.

The thirty-six Carnegie Libraries built in Kansas after 1910 reflect Bertram's precedents, exhibiting high space utilization, and often including full basements, although the raised basement is a design element employed in the earlier libraries as well. Most of these one-story libraries exhibit a three bay, Neo-Classical facade with a projecting central pedimented entry pavilion and are one bay deep. The use of native limestone is evident in some of the libraries but the most common material combination is brick with a limestone foundation. While there is some tendency toward a vernacular interpretation to the design ornamentation of these libraries, the general approach verges on high style.

Correspondence between the Carnegie Corporation and the library boards from the Kansas communities that received Carnegie Libraries indicates that the designs for these libraries were carefully scrutinized by Bertram and in many cases, were resubmitted several times before meeting his requirements. Upon the completion of a library, the library board was instructed to send a full set of blueprints and elevations of the building to the Corporation. However, recent correspondence between the Kansas State Historical Society and the Carnegie Corporation reveals that the Corporation does not have blueprints of the Kansas libraries. The Corporation does have some library photographs but the collection is not inclusive.

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Three architects were particularly active in the design of Kansas Carnegie Libraries: George P. Washburn of Ottawa, Kansas designed nine, A. T. Simmons of Bloomington, Illinois designed six, and William Warren Rose of Kansas City, Kansas designed four. Washburn's libraries are primarily of the standard three-bay, Neo-Classical variety. His firm is credited with the Carnegie libraries in Burlington, Canton, Cherryvale, Columbus, Eureka, Halstead, Osawatomie, Ottawa, and Sterling. Simmons engaged in a more eclectic approach, designing libraries in Abilene, Chanute, Council Grove, Downs, Hays and Yates Center. Rose is credited with the classically inspired libraries in Argentine, Kansas City, Manhattan, and Newton. In Kansas, many Kansas based architects were commissioned to design Carnegie Libraries as well as architects from Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, and Texas.

Today, many of the state's Carnegie Libraries are facing serious space shortages. The alternatives of adding on or vacating both present preservation problems. Additions to these libraries must be such that the building's original character is not altered. Vacating the library for a larger facility leaves the problem of an empty building, in some communities county historical societies have inherited the empty Carnegie Library. In any event, when these buildings are no longer recognized from a design standpoint as Carnegie Libraries, their architectural significance ceases.

Inventory of Carnegie Libraries in Kansas

	SITE	DATE	INVENTORY NUMBER
1.	Anthony Public (Carnegie) Library (Harper County) 104 N. Springfield Anthony, Kansas 67003 Owner: City of Anthony Lots 22,23,24; Block 34.	c. 1911	77-0180- 0003
2.	Burlington Carnegie Free Library (Coffey County) 201 N. Third Burlington, Kansas 66839 Owner: City of Burlington Lots 8,9; Block 35.	c. 1912	31-0690-0015
3.	Canton Township Carnegie Library (McPherson County) Box 336 Canton, Kansas 67428 Owner: Canton Township Lots 7,8,9,10,11; Block 2.	c. 1921	113-0790-0001
4.	Chanute Public (Carnegie) Library (Neosho County) 102 S. Lincoln Chanute, Kansas 66720 Owner: City of Chanute Lots 2,3; Block 39.	c. 1906	133-0870-0067
5.	Cherryvale Public (Carnegie) Library (Montgomery County) 329 E. Main Cherryvale, Kansas 67335 Owner: City of Cherryvale Lots 7,8; Block 39.	c. 1913	0930-0005 125 -0939-0006
6.	Clay Center Carnegie Library (Clay County) 706 Sixth Street Clay Center, Kansas 67432 Owner: City of Clay Center Lots 12,13; Block 36.	c. 1912	27-0980-0008

	1050
c. 1912	125 -2670 -0019
c. 1913	21-1100-0008
c. 1917	127-1180-0074
c. 1906	141-1400-0002
c. 1912	15-1540-0004
c. 1902	111-1660-0002
	c. 1912c. 1913c. 1917c. 1906c. 1912c. 1902

Anderson (Carnegie) Memorial Library (Lyon County) cont.

place of beg., except a tract beg. at the S,SW1/4 Sec. 9, thence N. 670 ft., thence E. 540 ft., thence S. 250 ft, thence W. 374 ft., thence S. 420 ft., thence W. 166 ft. to the point of beg. in Lyon Co.,KS and Lots Numbered 61,63,65,67,71, and the N. 30 ft. of Lot F all in Block numbered 3, in College Hill Addition to the City of Emporia.

Kingman, Kansas 67068 Owner: City of Kingman

Lots 101,103,105; Original Town.

13.	Fort Scott Public (Carnegie) Library (Bourbon County) 201 South National Fort Scott, Kansas 66701 Owner: City of Fort Scott Lots 1,(N1/2) 3; Block 123	c. 1902	11-1830-0016
14.	Girard Carnegie Library (Crawford County) 128 W. Prairie Girard, Kansas 66743 Owner: City of Girard Lots 17,18; Block 14.	c. 1906	37-2050-0003
15.	Herington Carnegie Public Library (Dickinson County) 102 S. Broadway Herington, Kansas 67449 Owner: City of Herington Lots 2,4; Block 40.	c. 1915	41-2420-0006
16.	Hutchinson Public (Carnegie) Library Building- Labor Temple (Reno County) 427 N. Main Hutchinson, Kansas 67501 Owner: Hutchinson Labor Building Association Lots 13,14,15; Block 17.	c. 1903- 1904	155-2660-0011
17.	Kingman Carnegie Library (Kingman County) 455 N. Main	c. 1914	95-2850-0006

18.	Lincoln Carnegie Library (Lincoln County) 203 S. Third Lincoln, Kansas 67455 Owner: City of Lincoln Lot 7; Block 32.	c. 1914	105–3189–005
19.	Lyndon Carnegie Library (Osage County) 127 E. Sixth, P.O. Box 563 Lyndon, Kansas 66451 Owner: Valleybrook Township Lots 4-9; Block 22.	c. 1911	139-3360-0003
20.	Manhattan Carnegie Library Building (Riley County) Fifth and Poyntz Manhattan, Kansas 66502 Owner: Riley County Board of Commissioners Lot 413; Ward 2.	c. 1904	161-3490-0016
21.	Osborne Public (Carnegie) Library (Osborne County) Third and Main Osborne, Kansas 67473 Owner: City of Osborne All of Block 12.	c. 1913	141-4230-0006
22.	Oswego Public (Carnegie) Library (Labette County) 704 Fourth Street Oswego, Kansas 67356 Owner: City of Oswego Lots 1,2,3,4; Block 32.	c. 1912	99-4250-0010
23.	Peabody Township Carnegie Library (Marion County) 214 Walnut Peabody, Kansas 66866 Owner: Peabody Township Lots 80,82,84 on Walnut.	c. 1914	115-4410-0024
24.	Sterling Free Public (Carnegie) Library (Rice County) 132 N. Broadway Sterling, Kansas 67579 Owner: City of Sterling Lots 182,184,186,188 on Broadway.	c. 1917	159-5225-0006

25.	Washburn University Carnegie Library Building (Shawnee County) (Education Building) Topeka, Kansas 66621 Owner: Washburn University of Topeka SW1/4, NW 1/4, NE 1/4, SW1/4, S1,T12, R15E	c. 1904	177-5400-0017
26.	Wellington Carnegie Library (Sumner County) 121 W. Seventh Wellington, Kansas 67152 Owner: City of Wellington Lots 13,14,15,16,17; Block 53.	c. 1916	191–5730– 0012
27.	Wichita City (Carnegie) Library Building (Sedgwick County) 220 S. Main Street Wichita, Kansas 67202 Owner: City of Wichita Lots 24,26,28,30,32,34,36 & 1/2 Vac. Alley Adj. on E. & Vac. Alley Ly. N. Lot 24 Exc. Beg. SE Cor. Lot 34 W 33.98 Ft. N. 100.56 Ft. W. 16.75 Ft. N. 9 Ft. Nwly. 15.36 Ft. W. 6.5 Ft. N. 10 Ft. W. 49 Ft. S. 25 Ft. W. 25 Ft. N. 58.66 Ft. E. to Cen. Li. Vac. Alley on E. Th. S. 115.56 Ft. W. 8 Ft. to SE Cor. Lot 30 S. to Beg. Main St. Greiffenstein's Add.	c. 1915	173-5880-0004
28.	Yates Center (Carnegie) Library (Woodson County) 218 N. Main Yates Center, Kansas 66783 Owner: City of Yates Center Lots 4,5,6; Block 27.	c. 1912	207-6010-0007

9. Major Biblio phical Reference

See attached sheet.

GPO 911-399

10. Geographi	cal Data		
Acreage of nominated property Quadrangle name Wichita Eas UTM References	Less than 1 acre	Quadr	angle scale 1:24,000
Zone Easting No C	on E. & Vac. Alley Ly N. 9 Ft. Nwly, 15.36 Cen. Li. Vac. Alley Fenstein's Add. It is or properties overlapping code N/A con	r. N. Lot 24 Exc. Beg Ft. W. 6.5 Ft. N. 10 r on E. Th. S. 115.56 bounded to W by S state or county boundar unty N/A	Northing
	code N/A co	unty N/A	codeN/A
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	dorn, Architectural H	date April 1	5, 1987 3-296-5264
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11. Form Preparation Fo	dorn, Architectural E Historical Society Oth Street	date April 1 telephone 913 state Kansas	3-296-5264
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11. Form Preparation Form Form Preparation Form Form Preparation Form Prep	oric Preservation Officer for the National Section of the National Society Oric Preservation Officer for the National Section	state Kansas ation Officer tal lational Historic Preservational Register and certify that bonal Park Service.	Certification n Act of 1966 (Public Law 89—it has been evaluated
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